

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) Apparatus comprising:

a medical item dispenser comprising:

a delivery area, wherein dispensed medical items are accessible to a user in the delivery area,

at least two medical item holder support locations,

wherein a first holder support location is operative to support a first medical item holder operative to hold a plurality of medical items, wherein the first medical item holder is of a first size,

wherein the first holder support location is further operative to support a second medical item holder operative to hold a plurality of medical items, wherein the second medical item holder is of a second size, wherein the second size differs from the first size,

a reference surface adjacent the first holder support location,

wherein the reference surface has three rows of human readable indicia thereon,

wherein the indicia rows are spaced in aligned side by side relation,

wherein each indicia row respectively corresponds to a different sized medical item holder,

wherein a first indicia row is operative to indicate the quantity of medical items in a first sized medical item holder supported at the first holder support location,

wherein a second indicia row is operative to indicate the quantity of medical items in a second sized medical item holder supported at the first holder support location,

wherein the dispenser is selectively operative to dispense at least one medical item from adjacent the reference surface to the delivery area.

2-28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 and further comprising

a medical item holder, wherein the medical item holder is operative to hold a plurality of medical items,

a moving device, wherein the moving device is selectively operative to cause the medical item holder to release at least one medical item therefrom.

30. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 29 wherein the holder comprises a helix, and wherein the helix is selectively rotatable by the moving device, and wherein the helix comprises a plurality of turns, and wherein indicia is viewable through at least one turn of the helix.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 30 wherein the locations of the indicia in a row correspond to a first spacing between the turns of the helix.

32. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the helix is releasably engageable with the moving device, and further comprising a further helix, wherein the further helix is engageable with the moving device and includes a plurality of turns having a second spacing different from the first spacing, and wherein when the second helix is engaged with the moving device the locations of the indicia in a row also~~

A medical item dispenser module comprising:

at least two medical item holder support locations,

wherein a first medical item holder support location is adapted to support a first helix in engagement with a helix rotator device, wherein the first helix is adapted to hold a plurality of medical items, and wherein the first helix is of a first size,

wherein the first medical item holder support location is further adapted to support a second helix in engagement with the helix rotator device, wherein the second helix is adapted to hold a plurality of medical items, wherein the second helix is of a second size, and wherein the second size differs from the first size,

a reference surface adjacent the first medical item holder support location,

rows of human readable indicia associated with the reference surface,

wherein the indicia rows are spaced in aligned relation,

wherein each indicia row respectively corresponds to a different sized helix,

wherein indicia locations in a first indicia row correspond to turns of the first helix, wherein when the first helix is engaged with the helix rotator device the first indicia row indicates a number associated with a medical item quantity held with the first helix,

wherein indicia locations in a second indicia row correspond to turns of the second helix, wherein when the second helix is engaged with the helix rotator device the second indicia row indicates to indicate a number associated with a medical item quantity held of medical items in engagement with the second helix.

33. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 29 and further comprising~~

Apparatus comprising:

a medical item dispenser comprising:

a medical item holder, wherein the medical item holder is adapted to hold a plurality of medical items,

a delivery area, wherein dispensed medical items are accessible to a user in the delivery area,

at least two medical item holder support locations,

wherein a first holder support location is adapted to support a first medical item holder adapted to hold a plurality of medical items, wherein the first medical item holder is of a first size,

wherein the first holder support location is further adapted to support a second medical item holder adapted to hold a plurality of medical items, wherein the second medical item holder is of a second size, wherein the second size differs from the first size,

a reference surface adjacent the first holder support location,

wherein the reference surface has rows of human readable indicia thereon,

wherein the indicia rows are spaced in aligned side by side relation,

wherein each indicia row respectively corresponds to a different sized medical item holder,

wherein a first indicia row is adapted to indicate the quantity of medical items in a first sized medical item holder supported at the first holder support location,

wherein a second indicia row is adapted to indicate the quantity of medical items in a second sized medical item holder supported at the first holder support location,

an enclosure, ~~and~~ wherein the reference surface is movably mounted in supporting connection with the enclosure,

a moving device, wherein the moving device is selectively operative to cause the medical item holder to release at least one medical item therefrom,

wherein the dispenser is selectively operative to dispense at least one medical item from adjacent the reference surface to the delivery area.

34. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the reference surface is movably mounted in supporting connection with the enclosure through a pair of disposed guides.

35. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 34 wherein the moving device is movably mounted in supporting connection with the enclosure through the pair of guides.

36. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 35 wherein the moving device is in operative connection with a retractable wiring harness including a releasable connector.

37. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 36 wherein after releasing the releasable connector the reference surface, moving device, and helix are disengageable from supporting connection with the enclosure as part of a module.

38. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 30 and further comprising~~

Apparatus comprising:

a medical item dispenser comprising:

a delivery area, wherein dispensed medical items are accessible to a user in the
delivery area,

at least two medical item holder support locations,

wherein a first holder support location is adapted to support a first medical item holder adapted to hold a plurality of medical items, wherein the first medical item holder is of a first size,

wherein the first holder support location is further adapted to support a second medical item holder adapted to hold a plurality of medical items, wherein the second medical item holder is of a second size, wherein the second size differs from the first size,

a reference surface adjacent the first holder support location,

wherein the reference surface has rows of human readable indicia thereon,

wherein the indicia rows are spaced in aligned side by side relation,

wherein each indicia row respectively corresponds to a different sized medical item holder,

wherein a first indicia row is adapted to indicate the
quantity of medical items in a first sized medical item
holder supported at the first holder support location,

wherein a second indicia row is adapted to indicate the
quantity of medical items in a second sized medical item
holder supported at the first holder support location,

a moving device,

a medical item holder adapted to hold a plurality of medical items,

wherein the moving device is selectively operative to cause the medical
item holder to release at least one medical item therefrom,

wherein the holder comprises a helix,

wherein the helix is selectively rotatable by the moving device,

wherein the helix comprises a plurality of turns,

wherein indicia is viewable through at least one turn of the
helix,

a holder guide, and

wherein the helix is secured in position by the holder guide,

wherein the holder guide includes a first portion that extends in a
longitudinal direction through a plurality of turns of the helix,

wherein the dispenser is selectively operative to dispense at least one medical item
from adjacent the reference surface to the delivery area.

39. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 38 wherein the holder guide
comprises a generally U-shaped holder guide.

40. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 38 and further comprising a guide extending in the longitudinal direction and in supporting connection with the reference surface, wherein the reference surface includes a plurality of transversely disposed slots, and wherein the guide includes at least one engaging portion releasably engageable in a plurality of the transversely disposed slots.

41. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the indicia rows include a plurality of aligned numerals.

42. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~wherein the reference surface has three rows of human readable indicia thereon~~ wherein indicia spacing in the three indicia rows respectively correspond with the pitch of the turns of three different sized helixes.

43. (previously presented) A method of operating the medical item dispenser of claim 1, comprising:

- (a) positioning a plurality of medical items adjacent the reference surface;
- (b) operating the medical item dispenser to dispense at least one medical item from adjacent the reference surface to the delivery area.

44. (currently amended) A method comprising:

(a) providing a medical item dispenser comprising:

a delivery area, wherein dispensed medical items are accessible to a user in the delivery area,

at least two medical item holder support locations,

wherein a first holder support location is operative to support a first medical item holder operative to hold a plurality of medical items, wherein the first medical item holder is of a first size,

wherein the first holder support location is further operative to support a second medical item holder operative to hold a plurality of medical items, wherein the second medical item holder is of a second size, wherein the second size differs from the first size,

a reference surface adjacent the first holder support location,

wherein the reference surface has three rows of human readable indicia thereon,

wherein the indicia rows are spaced in aligned side by side relation,

wherein each indicia row respectively corresponds to a different sized medical item holder,

wherein a first indicia row is operative to indicate the quantity of medical items in a first sized medical item holder supported at the first holder support location,

wherein a second indicia row is operative to indicate the quantity of medical items in a second sized medical item holder supported at the first holder support location;

- (b) positioning a plurality of medical items adjacent the reference surface;
- (c) operating the medical item dispenser to dispense at least one medical item from adjacent the reference surface to the delivery area.

45. (previously presented) The method according to claim 44

wherein (a) includes providing a medical item holder adjacent the reference surface and providing a moving device, wherein the medical item holder is operative to hold a plurality of medical items, wherein the moving device is selectively operative to cause the medical item holder to release at least one medical item therefrom,

wherein (b) includes holding a plurality of medical items with the medical item holder,

wherein (c) includes operating the moving device to cause the removal of at least one medical item from the medical item holder, and further comprising

(d) determining the quantity of medical items remaining held by the medical item holder by reading indicia in the indicia row corresponding to the size of the medical item holder.